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SONIC

THE HEDGEHOG



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3 PAZ
HARIO

TYRANNY-- LIKE A DARK CLOUD IT SHADOWS A LAND, CAUSING THE VALIANT TO REBEL, CREATING WAR...

WAR-- ITS SOLDIERS ARE OFTEN CALLED **FREEDOM FIGHTERS**, WHO ARE SOMETIMES DRIVEN TO DESPERATE ACTS, EVEN AGAINST THOSE WHO HAVE ATTEMPTED NEUTRALITY...

NEUTRALITY-- A POSITION IN WAR THE FABLED **FLOATING ISLAND** HAS BEEN UNABLE TO MAINTAIN AS ITS NATIVES LOOK FOR HOPE FROM ITS **GUARDIAN**...

GUARDIAN-- THE ONE BEING THEY DEPEND ON TO PROTECT THEM FROM THE DESPERATE ACTS OF THOSE IN SEARCH OF **FREEDOM** AND THEIR WAR'S INVASION...

INVASION-- SOMETHING **KNUCKLES** THE **ECHIDNA** NEVER THOUGHT HE WOULD HAVE TO CONTEND WITH FROM THE LIKES OF **SONIC THE HEDGEHOG**!

ARE YOU CRAZY-- BARGING IN HERE AND DEMANDING I FORK OVER MY **CHAOS EMERALD**??

WITHOUT IT, MY ISLAND WILL FALL!

I'VE GOTTA HAVE IT -- THE FATE OF **MOBIUS** DEPENDS ON IT!

"IN EVERY KINGDOM THERE MUST EXIST A LITTLE CHAOS!"

PART 1

SCRIPT: KENT TAYLOR ART: ART MAWHINNEY INKER: PHIL SHEEHY LETTERING: MINDY EISMAN COLORING: BARRY GROSSMAN EDITOR: J. FREDDY GABRIE MANAGING EDITOR: VICTOR GORELICK EDITOR-IN-CHIEF: RICHARD GOLDWATER

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ROBOTNIK JUST TRIED TO
SINK MY ISLAND!-- NOW YOU
WANT TO FINISH THE JOB?!



OFF!! NO, BUT
DURING THAT BATTLE
I LEARNED YOU HAD
A SPARE EMERALD WHICH
YOU STOLE FROM THE
POWER RING GROTTO!*

THAT GROTTO'S ON WHAT
USED TO BE ROYAL REAL ESTATE
AND BY RIGHTS IT BELONGS TO KING
ACORN'S FREEDOM FIGHTERS!



UGH!! SEZ YOU! I
NEED THAT EXTRA EMERALD
FOR "HOME OWNER'S INSURANCE"
AND I WON'T GIVE IT UP!

*NO, YOU DIDN'T MISS A THING, FANS. READ
THE SONICQUEST LIMITED SERIES FOR THE
LOWDOWN. ON SALE NOW! -- FRED K1
SUPER SONIC VS. HYPER KNUCKLES #1 - Freddy K2

SONIC!
KNUCKLES! STOP!
THIS WON'T SAVE
KING ACORN'S
LIFE!

WHAT'S
HE MEAN?
THE KING'S
IMPRISONED!

NOT ANY
MORE! WE
FINALLY RESCUED
HIM FROM THE
ZONE OF
SILENCE.

THEN
WHAT'S THIS
ABOUT SAVING
HIS LIFE?

SOME UNKNOWN
SIDE EFFECT OF
HIS IMPRISONMENT
IS TURNING HIS
BODY INTO
CRYSTAL!****

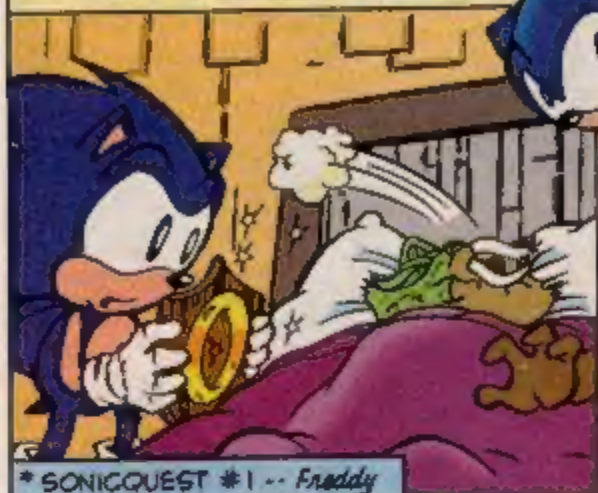


**** SONICQUEST #1--
"TOO MANY FOOT-
NOTES FREDDY"! 2

*** LAST ISSUE -- Freddy X3

* WE TRIED TO USE A *POWER RING* TO RESTORE HIS HEALTH, BUT IT FAILED! *

"AND WHEN TAILS SAID HE LOOKED LIKE A *CHAOS EMERALD*" I FIGURED MAYBE A REAL ONE WOULD DO THE TRICK!"



* SONICQUEST #1 -- Freddy

BESIDES, THE FREEDOM FIGHTERS COULD USE ITS *POWER* AGAINST BUTTNIK'S NEW KICK-BUTT INVENTIONS!

WE GOT THE ONES ROBOTNIK--
3MMPH!?

WHAT HE MEANS IS WE TRIED, BUT BUTTNIK** SUCKED IT DRY!

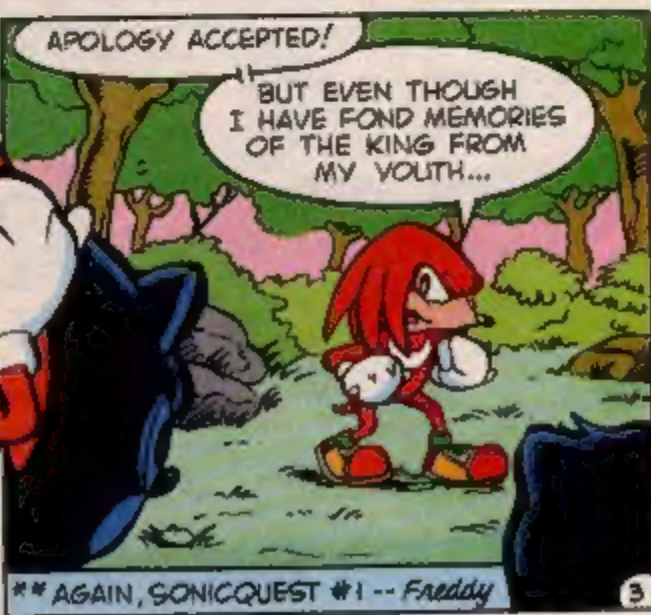


SORRY I WAS HASTY, BUT NOW YOU KNOW I'VE GOTTA HAVE THAT *EMERALD*!

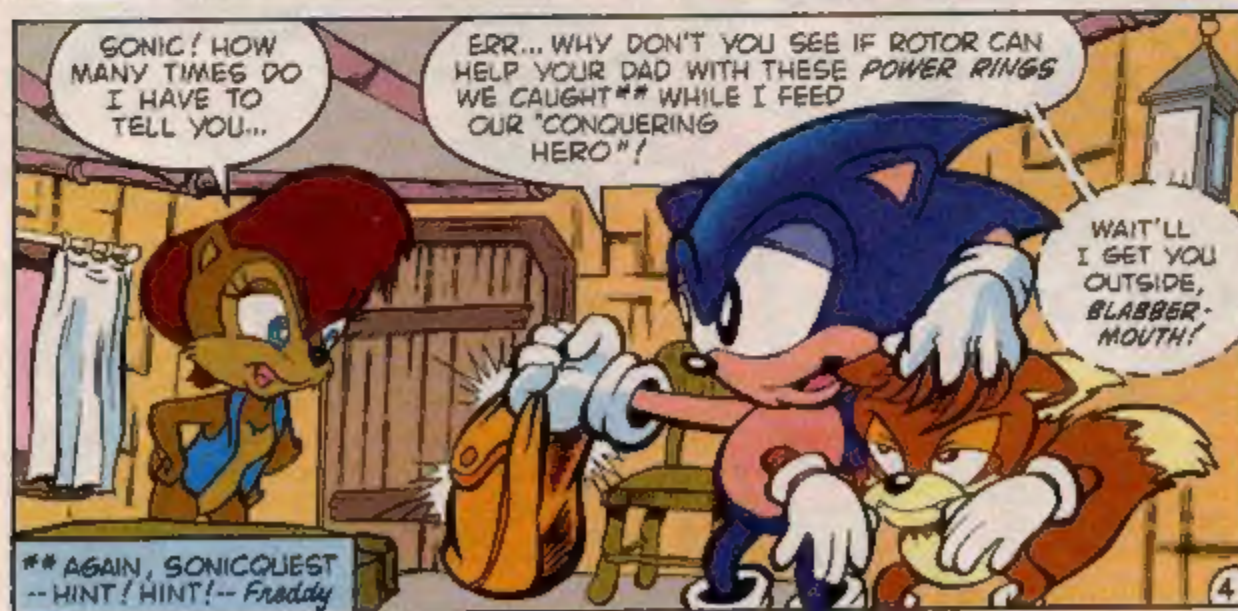
APOLOGY ACCEPTED!

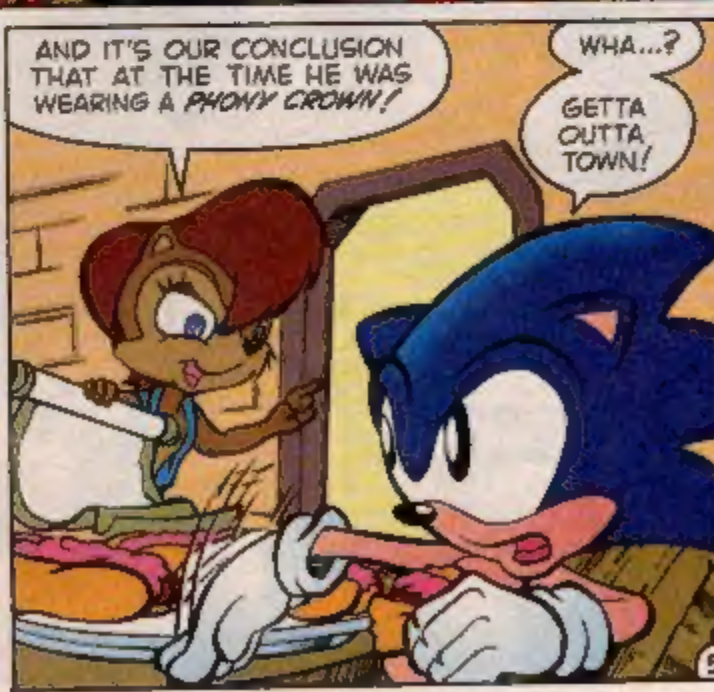
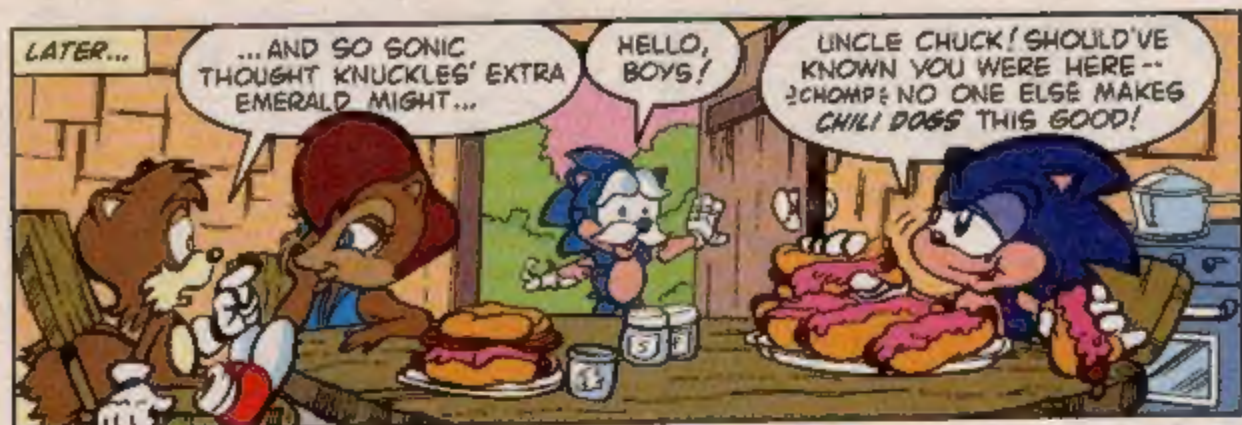
BUT EVEN THOUGH I HAVE FOND MEMORIES OF THE KING FROM MY YOUTH...

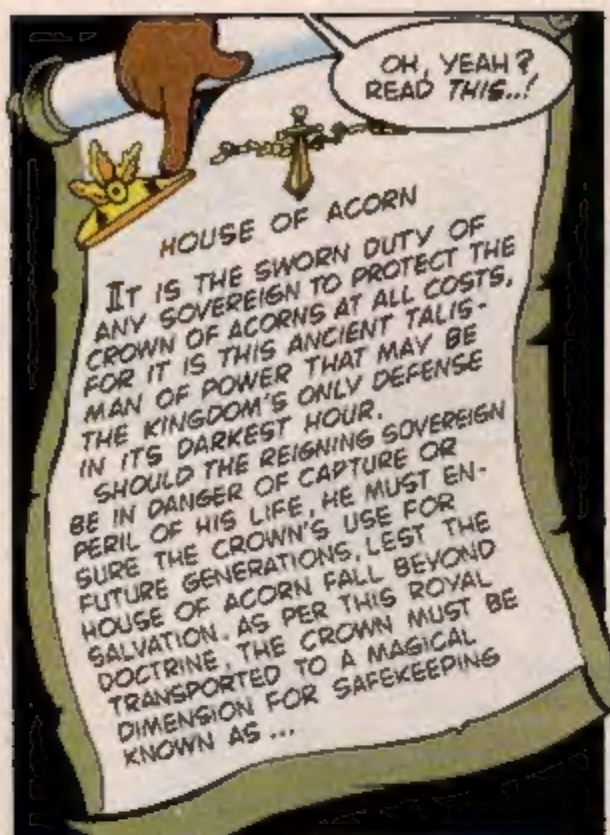
IF IT'S *POWER* YOU NEED, WHY DON'T YOU JUST GET MORE *RINGS* FROM THE *GROTTO*?



** AGAIN, SONICQUEST #1 -- Freddy







ACCORDING TO ANTOINE & BUNNIE'S REPORT, A RING APPEARS OUT OF THE LAKE ONCE EVERY HOUR. THE NEXT ONE IS DUE TO COME OUT IN A FEW MINUTES.

SO WHY ARE WE WAITING HERE, SO FAR FROM THE LAKE "AUNT" SALLY?

WELL, YOU KNOW ITS EXISTENCE IS SUPPOSED TO BE A SECRET FROM EVERYONE BUT UNCLE CHUCK AND THE CORE FREEDOM FIGHTERS...

IN EVERY KINGDOM THERE MUST EXIST A LITTLE CHAOS!

PART 2

... BUT WE'RE WORRIED THAT THOSE COMBOTS MAY HAVE TRANSMITTED ITS LOCATION TO BUTTNIK AFTER AMBUSHING US!*

* SONIC # 38 -- Fred

SO UNCLE CHUCK SET UP A MEETING HERE WITH FLY FLY FREDDY TO REPORT ON WHAT ROBOTNIK REALLY KNOWS.

THE SPY NETWORK** SHOULD KNOW THE SCORE...

.. PROVIDING FRED EVER GETS HERE...
3 WHOA? SLEUTH! WHAT'RE YOU DOING HERE?

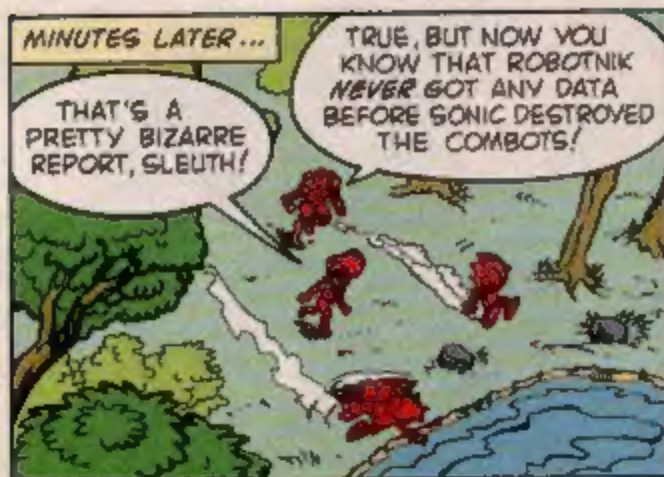
SORRY TO STARTLE YOU! FRED'S COVER WAS ALMOST BLOWN, BUT I WAS ABLE TO LEAVE ROBOTROPOLIS SAFELY!

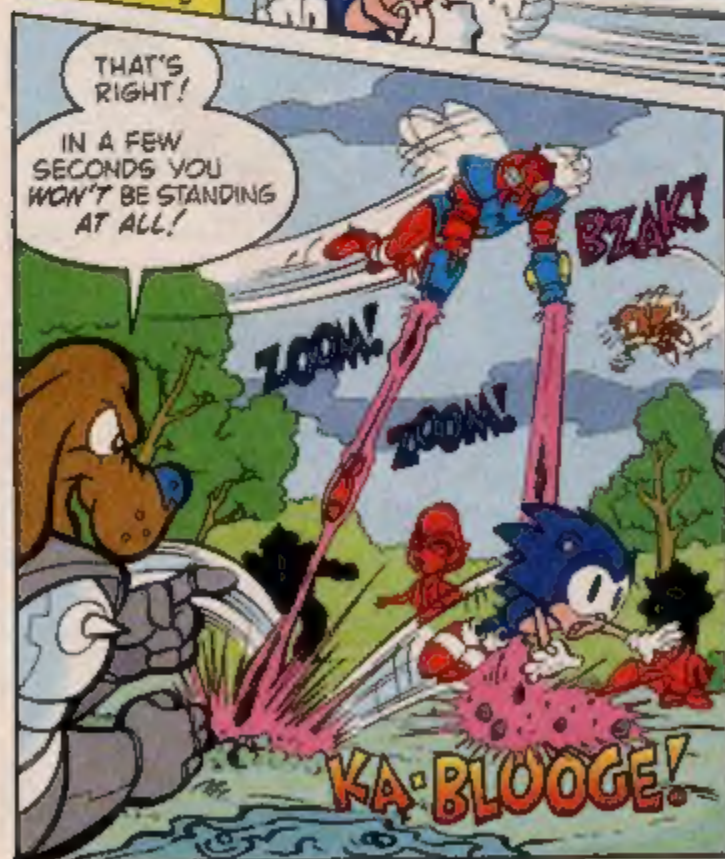
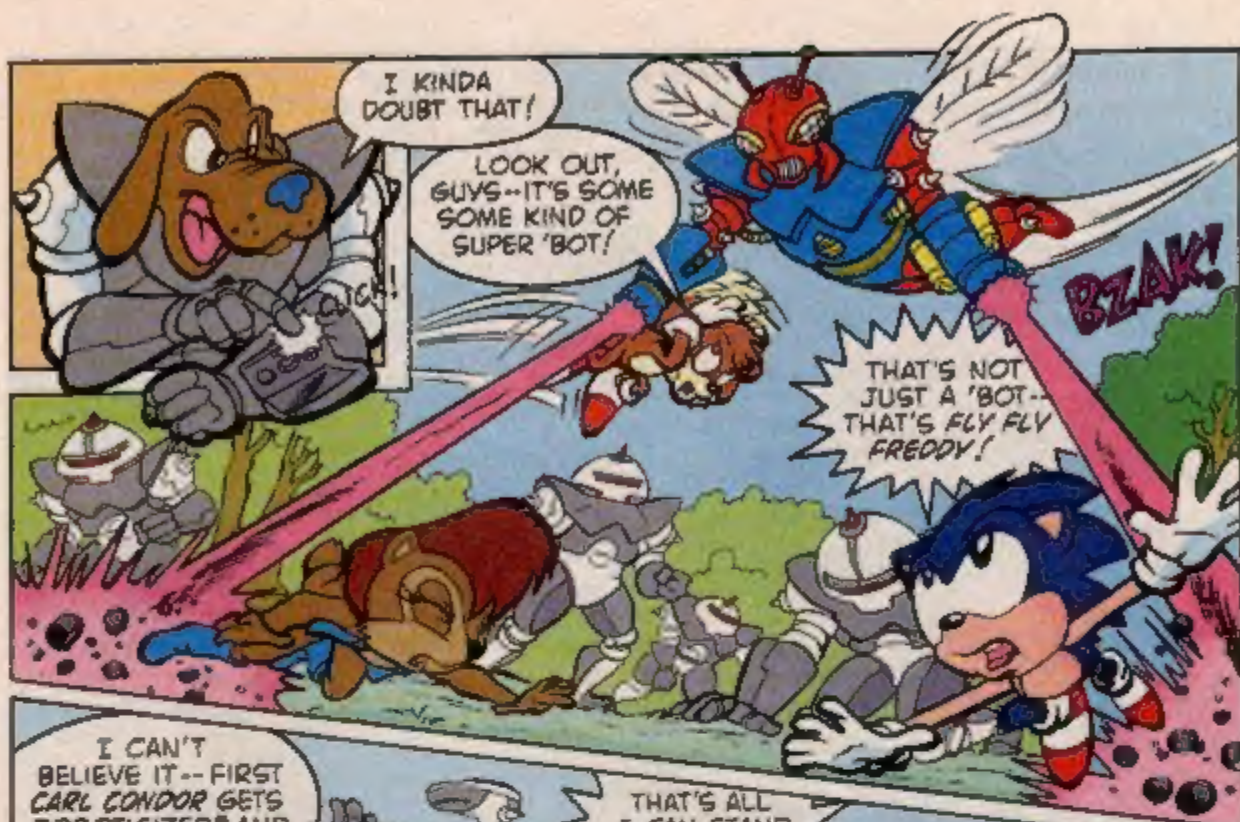
LET ME DETAIL HIS REPORT WHILE WE HEAD OVER TO THE LAKE!

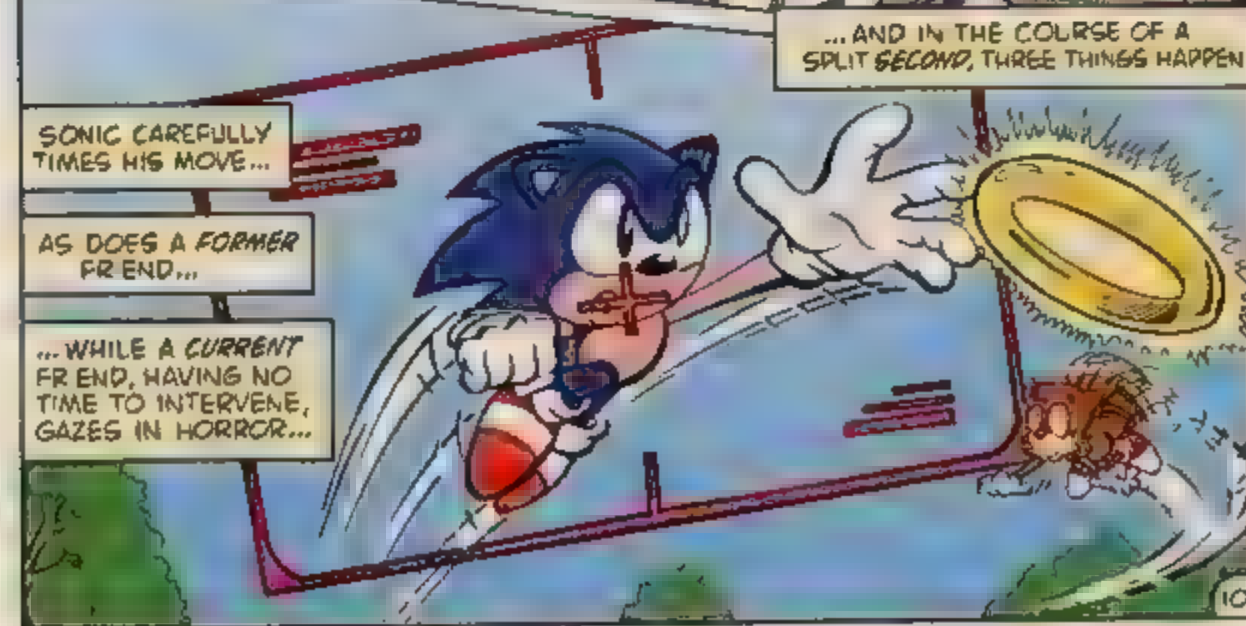
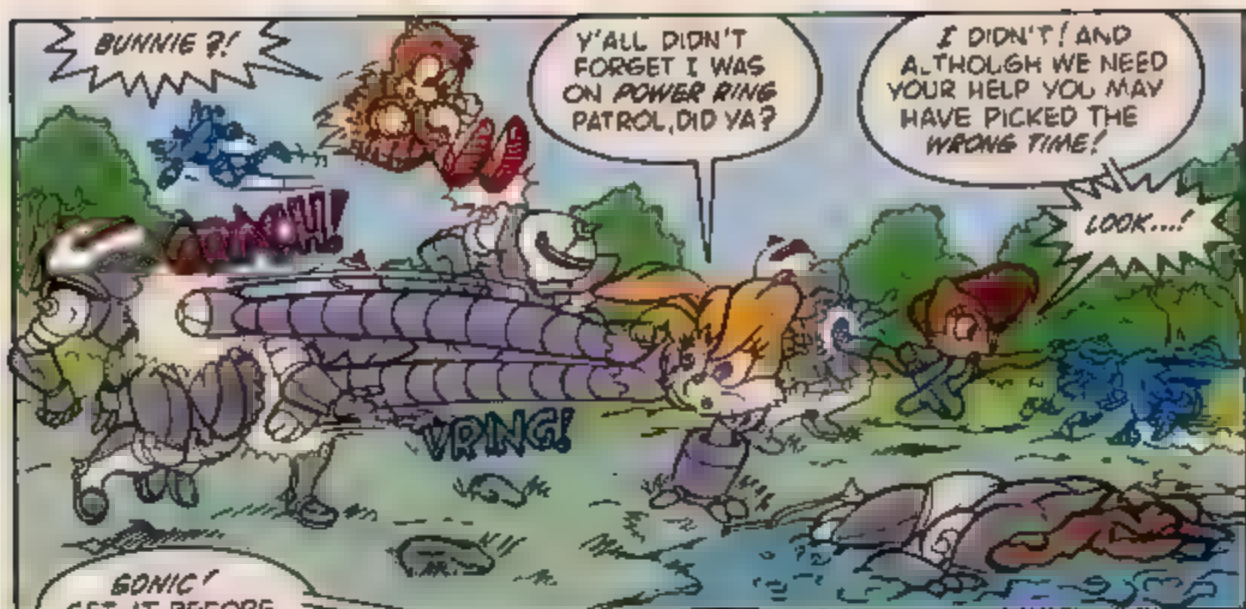
THIS ISN'T STANDARD PROCEDURE, SOLDIER!

TOO TRUE, GAL! BUT SINCE WE'RE ALREADY BEHIND SCHEDULE, I THINK WE CAN TRUST HIM WITH ITS LOCATION!

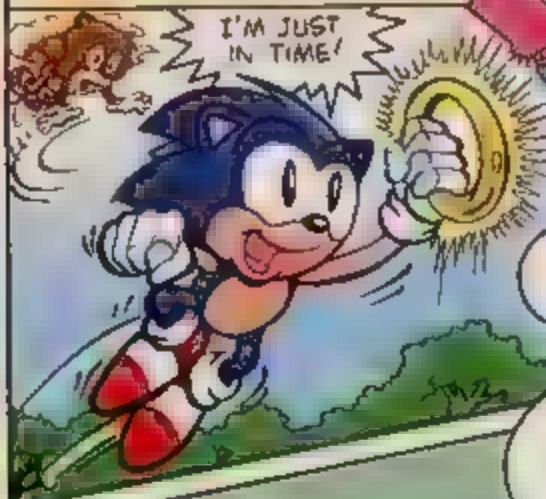
** LAST SEEN IN SONIC #38 - Fred



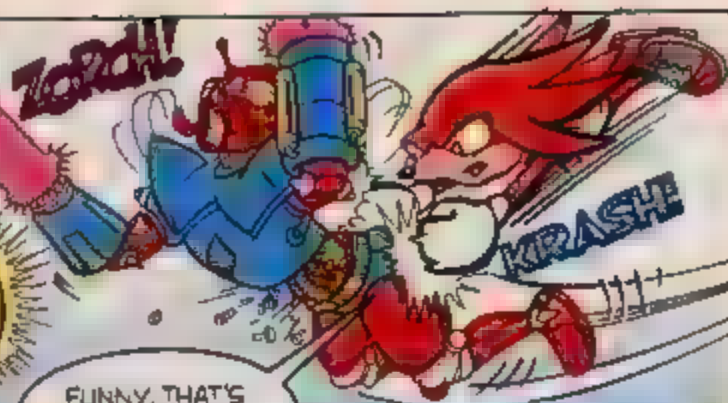




THANKFULLY, THE DAWNING OF A NEW FRIENDSHIP IS WELL-TIMED FOR THE NEXT SECOND WITH SONIC REAPING THE REWARDS!

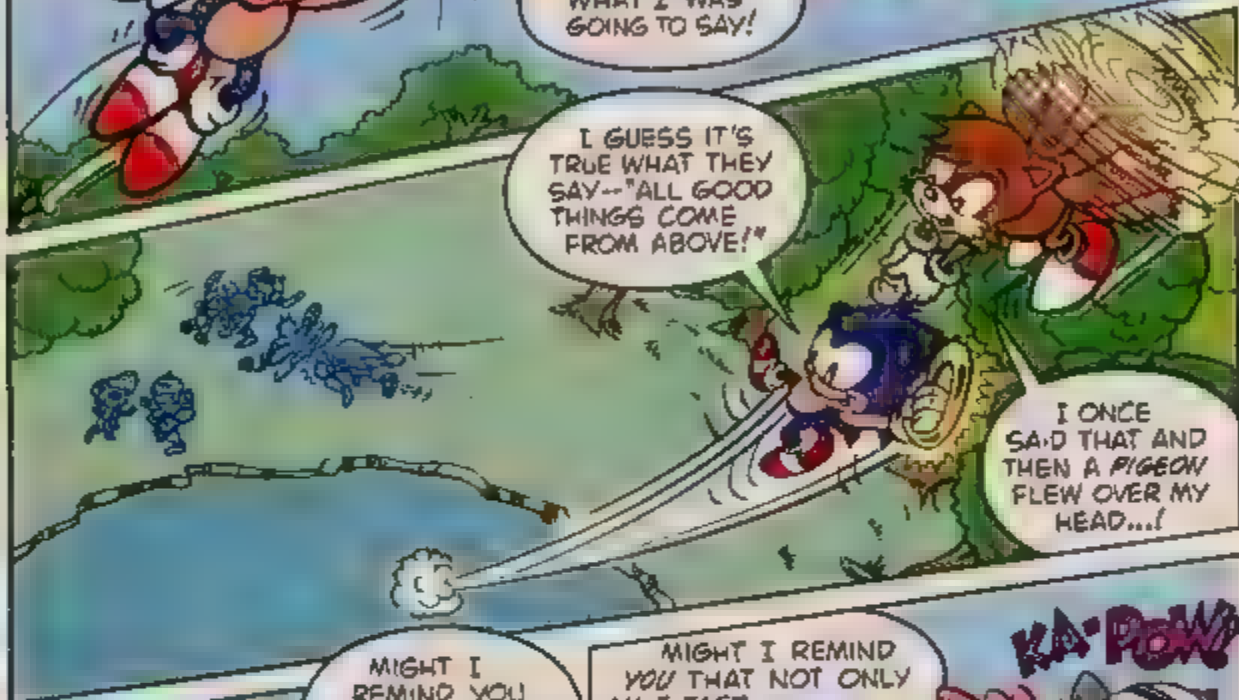


I'M JUST
IN TIME!



FUNNY, THAT'S
WHAT I WAS
GOING TO SAY!

I GUESS IT'S
TRUE WHAT THEY
SAY-- "ALL GOOD
THINGS COME
FROM ABOVE!"



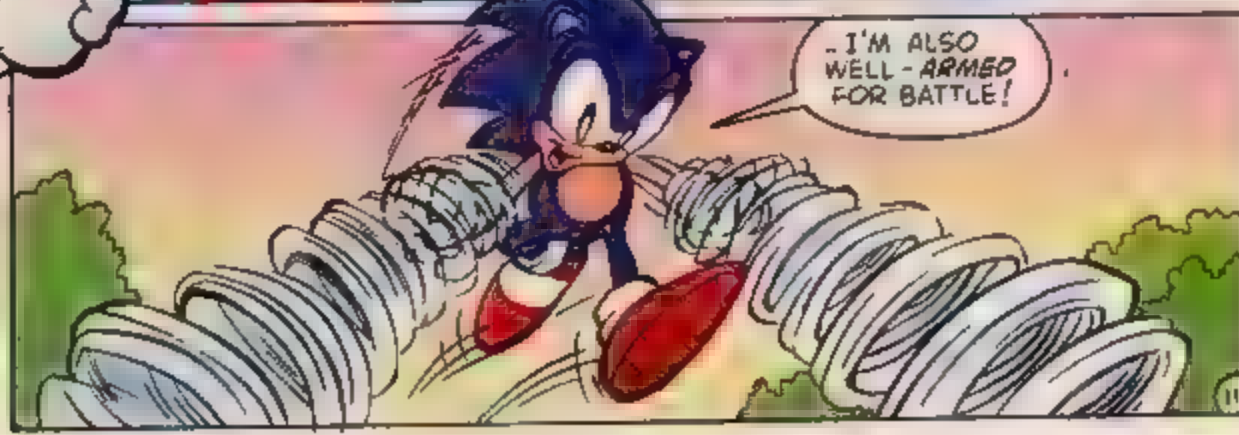
I ONCE
SAID THAT AND
THEN A PIGEON
FLEW OVER MY
HEAD...!



MIGHT I
REMINDE YOU
COMEDIANS, WE'RE
IN THE MIDDLE
OF BATTLE?!



MIGHT I REMIND
YOU THAT NOT ONLY
AM I FAST
ON MY
FEET...



...I'M ALSO
WELL-ARMED
FOR BATTLE!

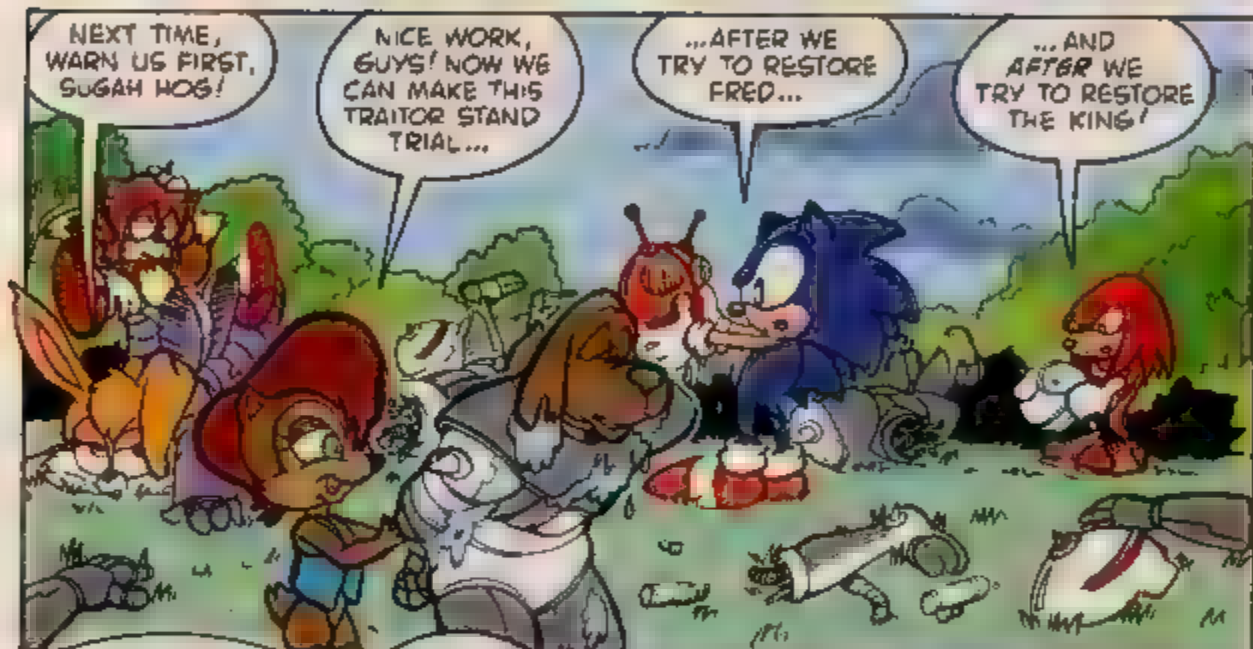


NO NEED TO BE A WORRY-WART, NOT WHEN MY NEW WHIRLWIND WHAMMY CAN WALLOP THESE WIENIES!

WHIRRRR

POW-LANG

CRASH!

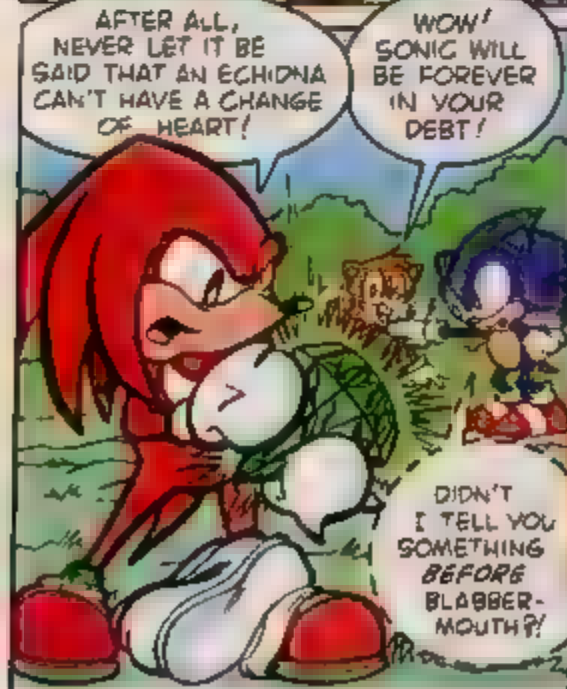


NEXT TIME, WARN US FIRST, SUGAH HOG!

NICE WORK, GUYS! NOW WE CAN MAKE THIS TRAITOR STAND TRIAL...

...AFTER WE TRY TO RESTORE FRED...

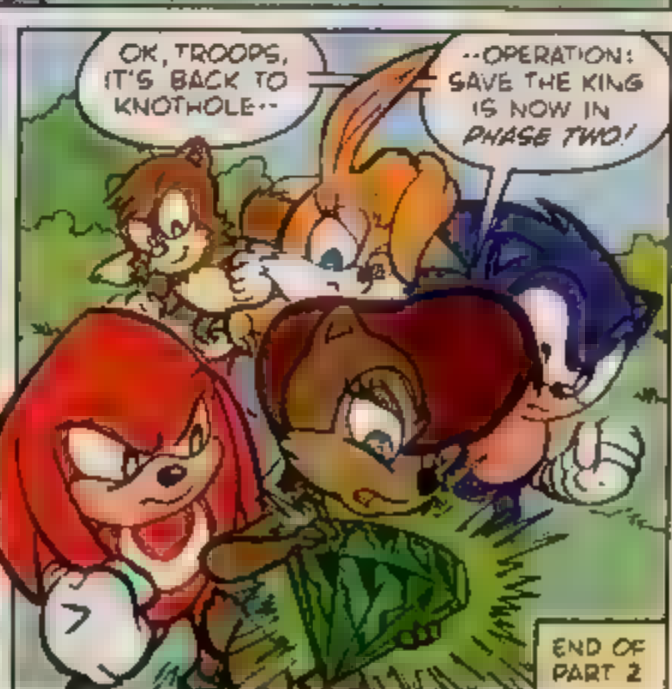
...AND AFTER WE TRY TO RESTORE THE KING!



AFTER ALL, NEVER LET IT BE SAID THAT AN ECHIDNA CAN'T HAVE A CHANGE OF HEART!

WOW! SONIC WILL BE FOREVER IN YOUR DEBT!

DIDN'T I TELL YOU SOMETHING BEFORE BLABBER-MOUTH?



OK, TROOPS, IT'S BACK TO KNOTHOLE...

...OPERATION: SAVE THE KING IS NOW IN PHASE TWO!

END OF PART 2

SO, THIS IS
WHAT'S LEFT OF
THE ONCE BEAUTIFUL
KINGDOM OF ACORN?!
WAR SURE LEAVES
ITS SCARS!

I'LL GIVE
YOU THE NICKEL
TOUR LATER!

RIGHT NOW
I WANT TO KNOW
WHAT BROUGHT
YOU HERE?

**"IN EVERY
KINGDOM THERE
MUST EXIST A
LITTLE CHAOS!"**

PART 3

THAT WAS MY
DOING, SONIC!

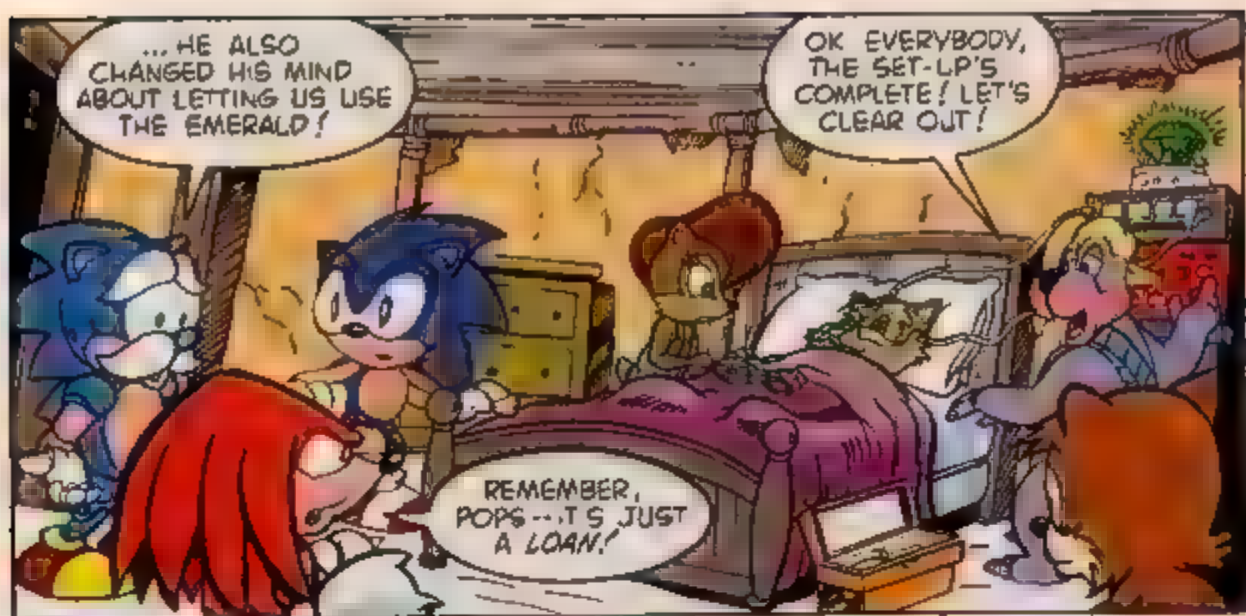
"FOR SOME TIME I'VE
SUSPECTED THERE MAY BE
A DOUBLE AGENT IN OUR
SPY NETWORK..."

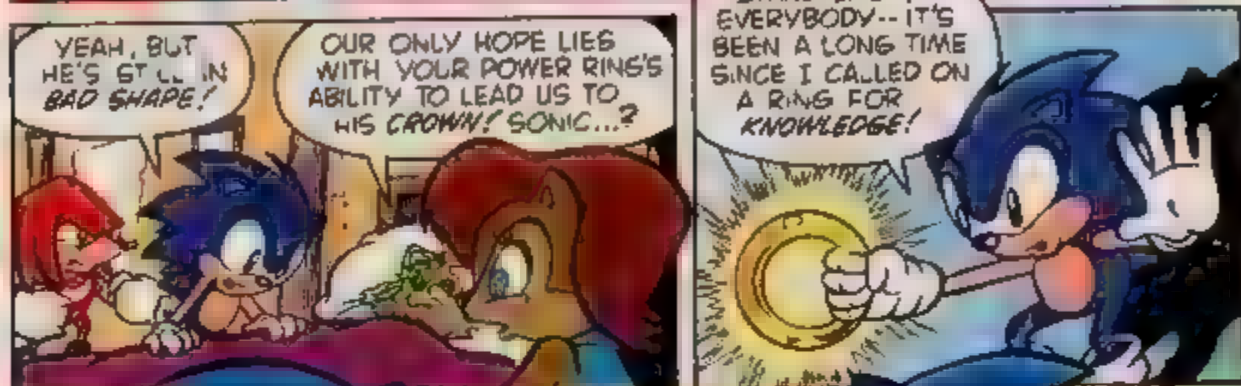
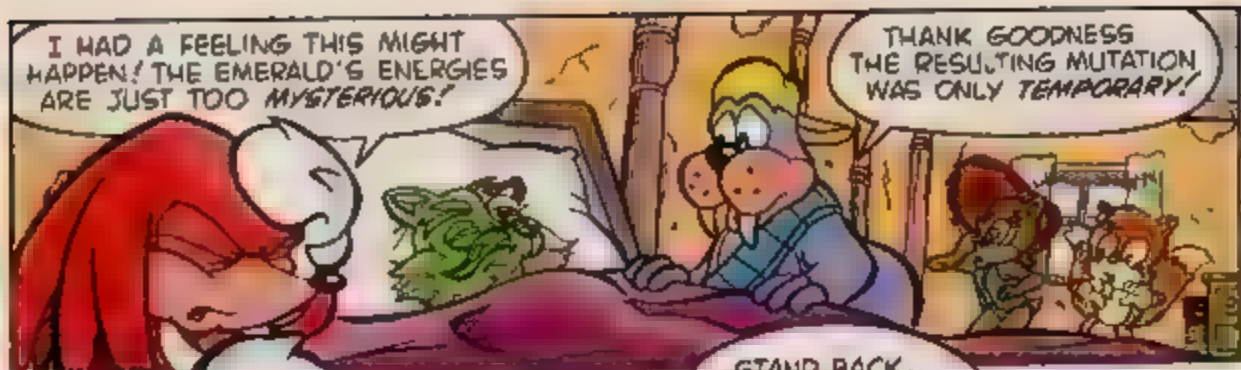
"...AND MY FEARS WERE CONFIRMED WHEN
FRED FAILED TO REPORT FOR ORDERS..."

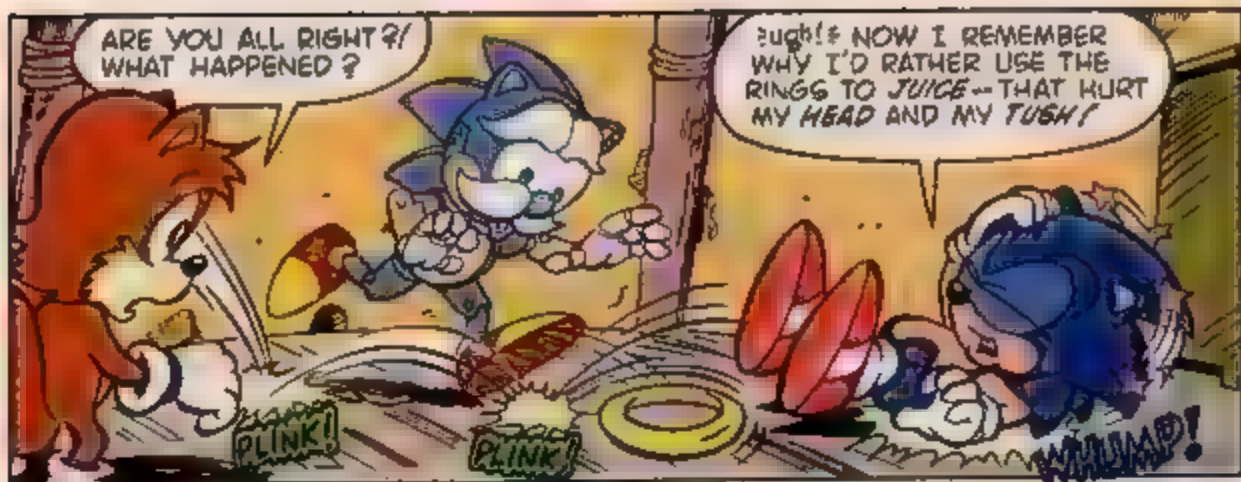
"NOT KNOWING WHO I COULD NOW
TRUST, I THOUGHT IT BEST TO CALL
ON OUTSIDE ASSISTANCE..."

"USING AN OUTDATED AND UNTRACEABLE
FREQUENCY, I RADIOED KNUCKLES..."

"NOT ONLY DID HE
AGREE TO HELP..."







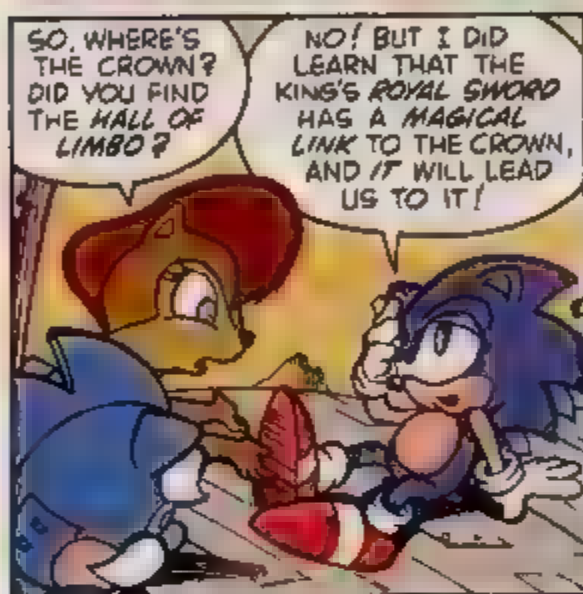
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?/
WHAT HAPPENED?

UGH!! NOW I REMEMBER
WHY I'D RATHER USE THE
RINGS TO JUICE-- THAT HURT
MY HEAD AND MY TUSH!

PLINK!

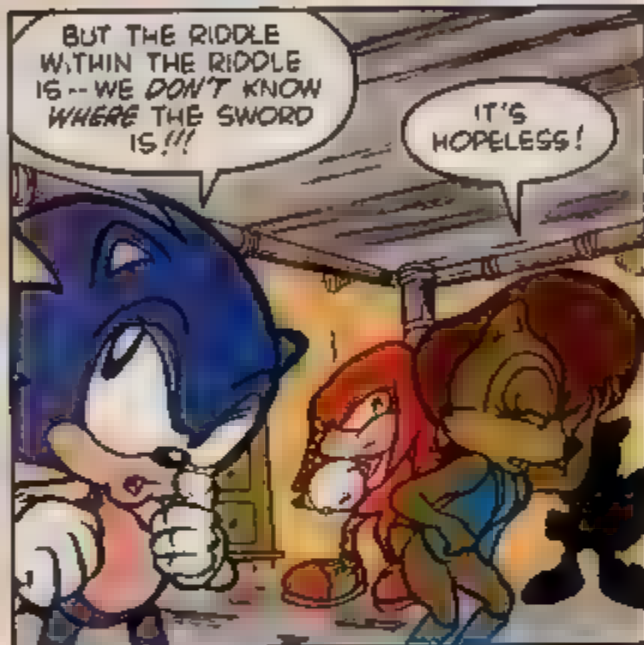
PLINK!

WHUM!



SO, WHERE'S
THE CROWN?
DID YOU FIND
THE HALL OF
LIMBO?

NO! BUT I DID
LEARN THAT THE
KING'S ROYAL SWORD
HAS A MAGICAL
LINK TO THE CROWN,
AND IT WILL LEAD
US TO IT!



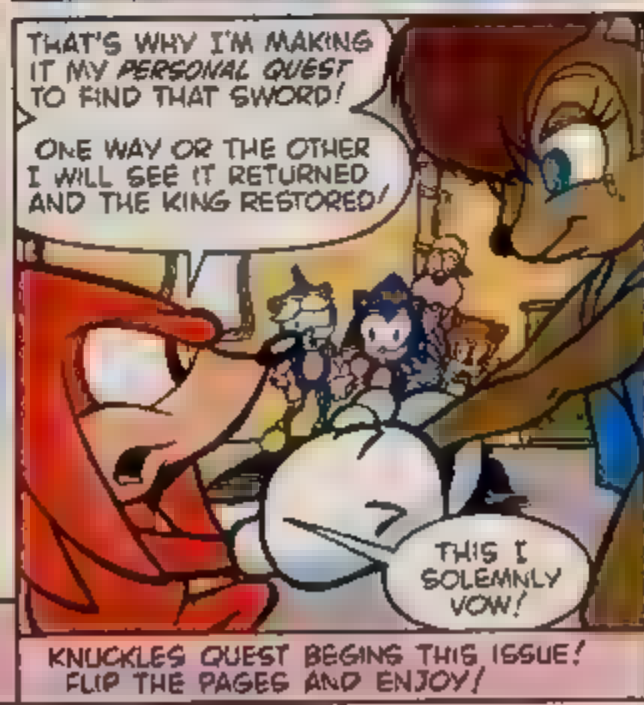
BUT THE RIDDLE
WITHIN THE RIDDLE
IS-- WE DON'T KNOW
WHERE THE SWORD
IS!!!

IT'S
HOPELESS!



PRINCESS, YOU SHOULDN'T
HAVE TO LOSE YOUR FATHER
TWICE. ONCE IS ENOUGH FOR
ANYONE. I KNOW--AND I
WON'T LET YOU DOWN!

*KNUCKLES DOESN'T
KNOW HIS FATHER'S
ALIVE - Fred



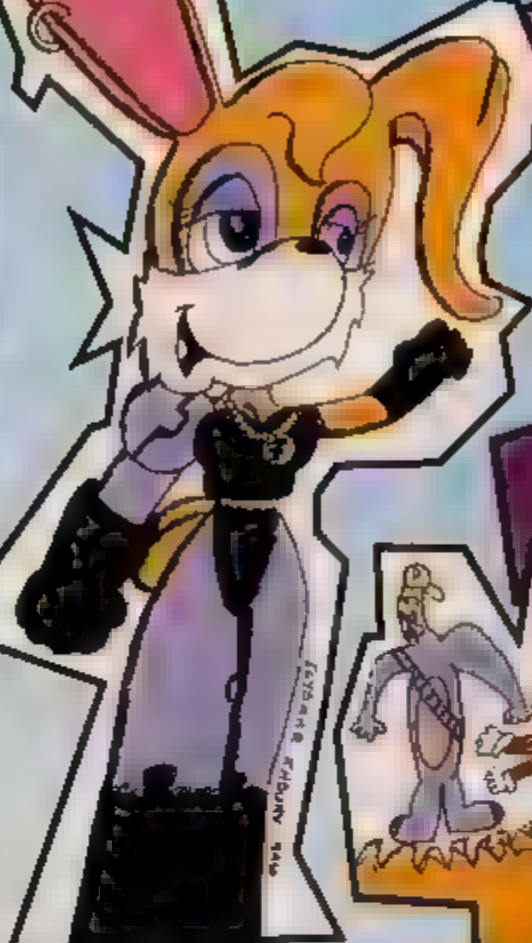
THAT'S WHY I'M MAKING
IT MY PERSONAL QUEST
TO FIND THAT SWORD!

ONE WAY OR THE OTHER
I WILL SEE IT RETURNED
AND THE KING RESTORED!

THIS I
SOLEMNLY
VOW!

KNUCKLES QUEST BEGINS THIS ISSUE!
FLIP THE PAGES AND ENJOY!

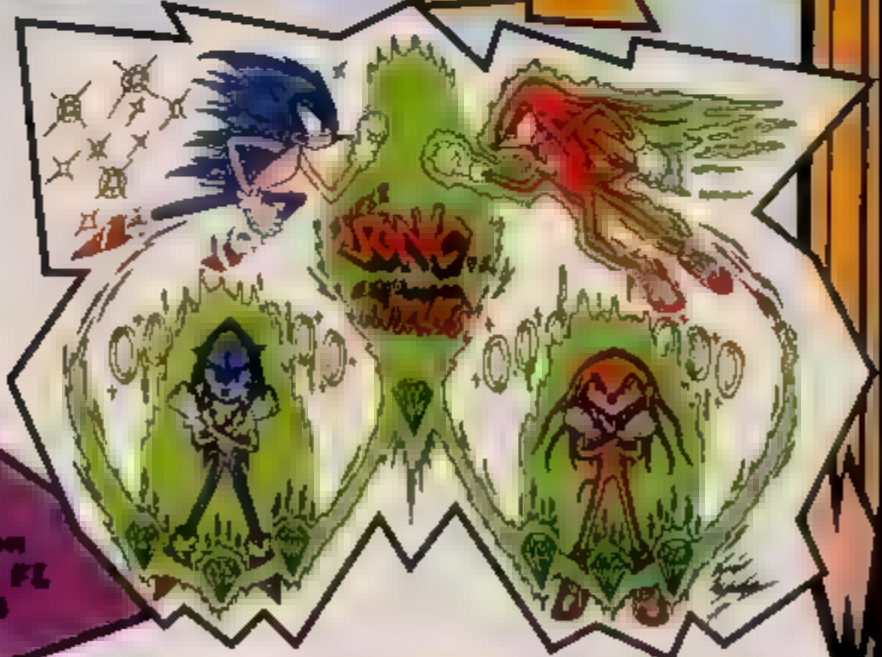
FAN ART



Klyzaar
Kheury
Rabat,
Morocco
Age 13

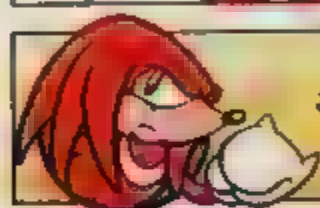
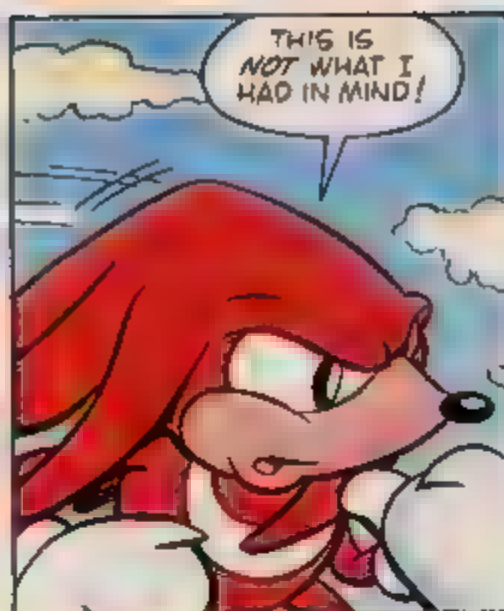


Rethan
Rodriguez
Colorado
Springs, CO
Age 6



Hyper
3th
Boynton
Beach, FL
Age 13

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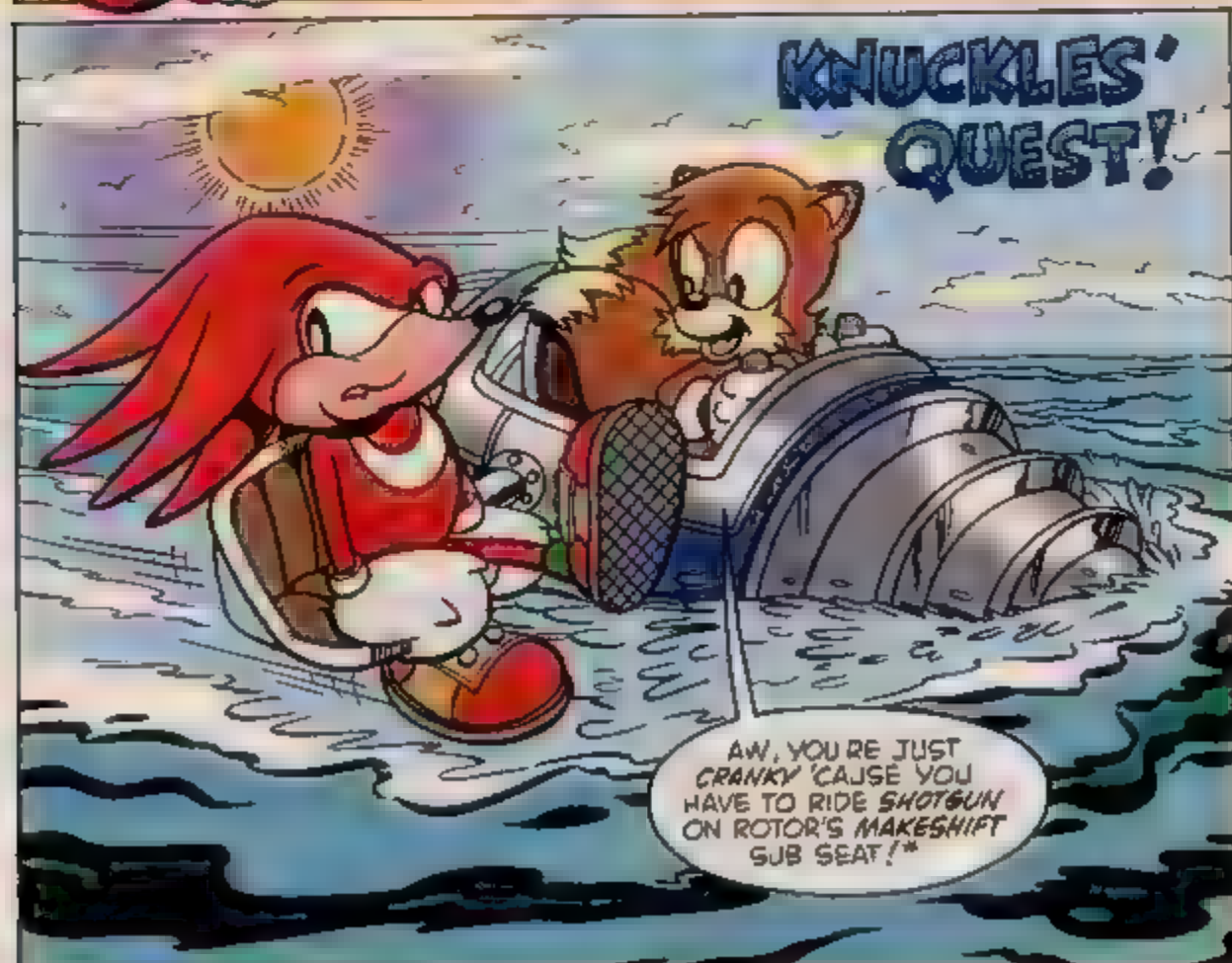


KEN PENDERS
& KENT TAYLOR
WRITERS

ART MAWHINNEY
& BRIAN THOMAS
ARTISTS

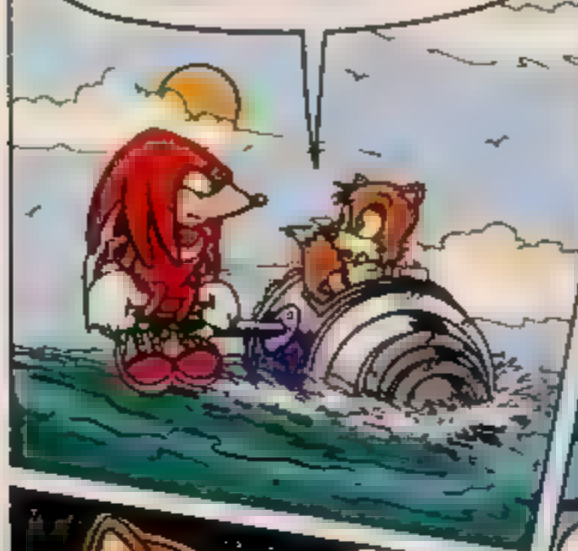
MINDY
EISMAN
LETTERER

BARRY
GROSSEMAN
COLORIST

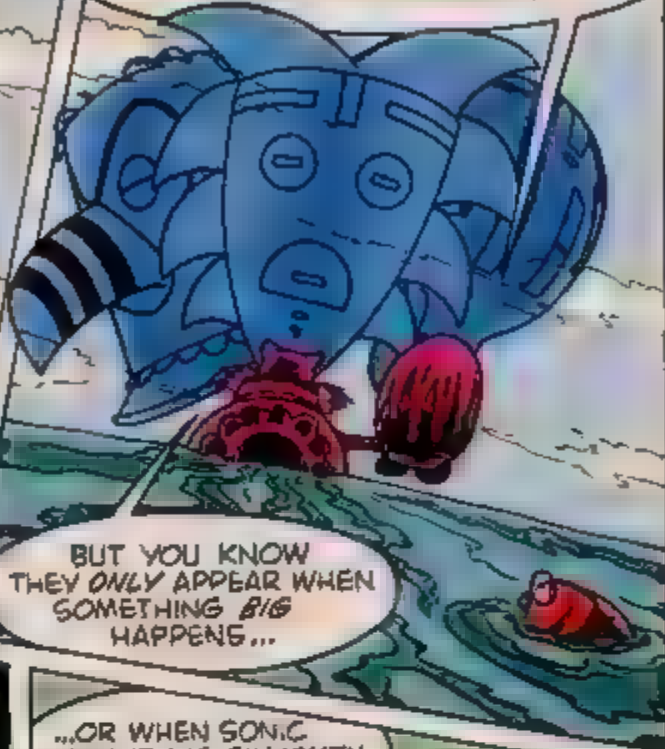


*EVERYONE REMEMBER THE SEA FOX FROM TAILS' MINI-SERIES? - Freddy

BESIDES, YOU WERE THE ONE WHO SAID, "IF I'M GOING TO FIND A MAGIC SWORD, I BETTER START BY REACHING OUT TO A GREAT SOURCE OF MAGIC!"

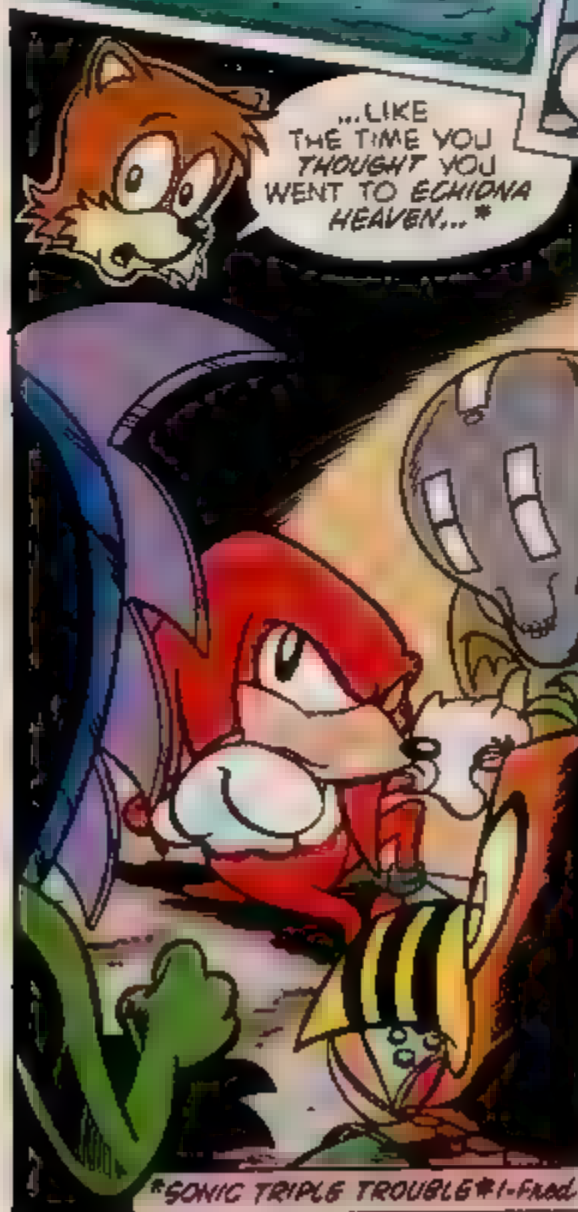


YEAH, BUT WHEN I SAID, "I'LL START MY PERSONAL QUEST BY CONTACTING THE ANCIENT WALKERS," I MEANT BY-- MY--SELF!



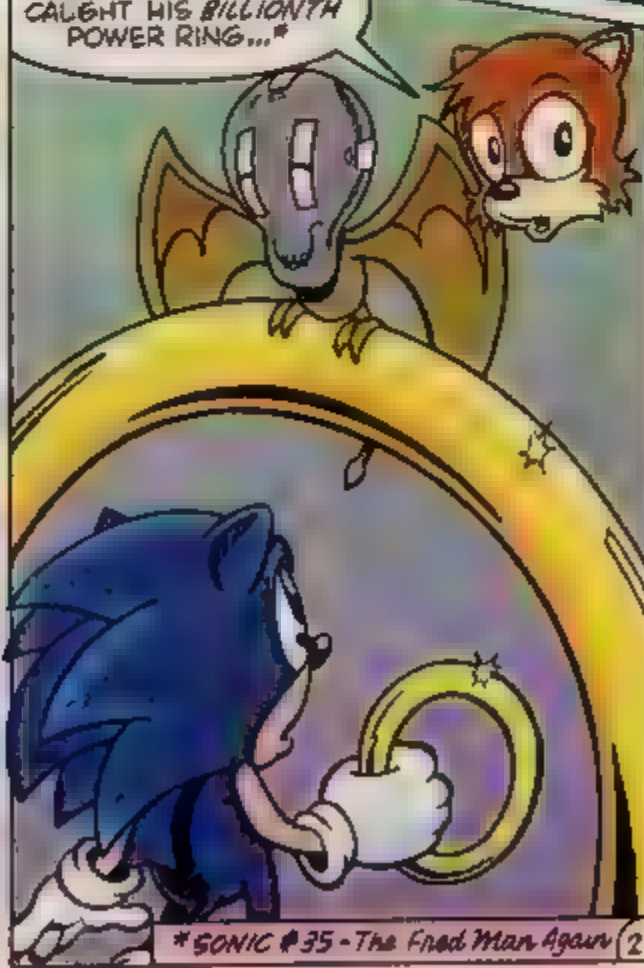
BUT YOU KNOW THEY ONLY APPEAR WHEN SOMETHING BIG HAPPENS...

...LIKE THE TIME YOU THOUGHT YOU WENT TO ECHIDNA HEAVEN...*

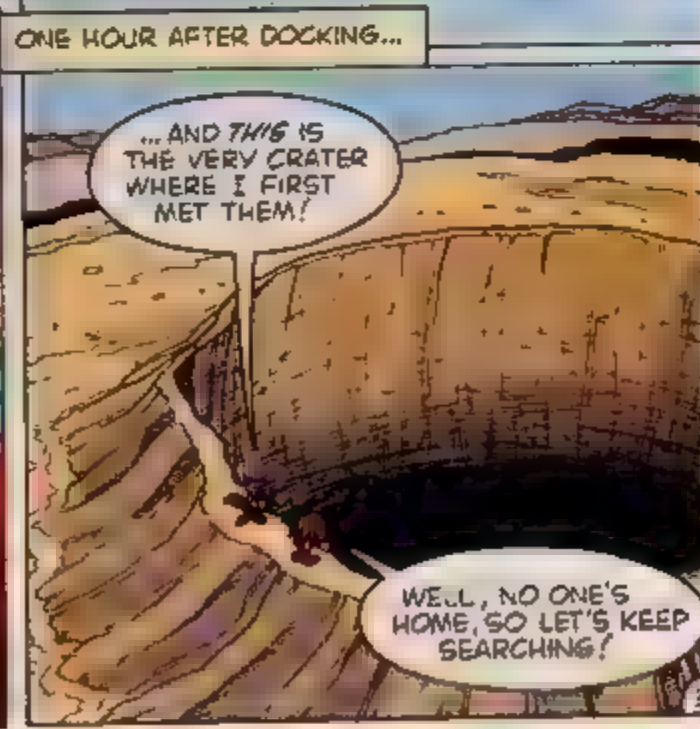
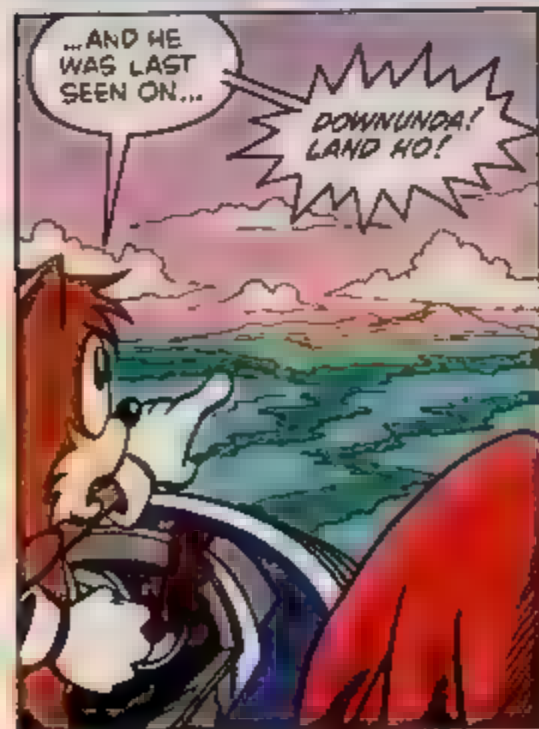
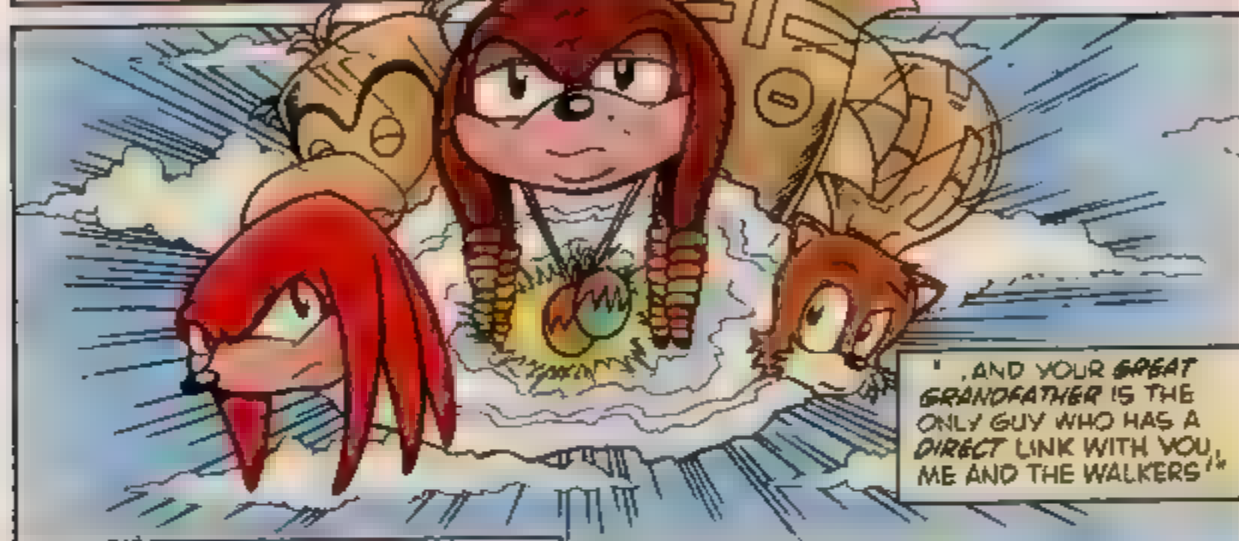
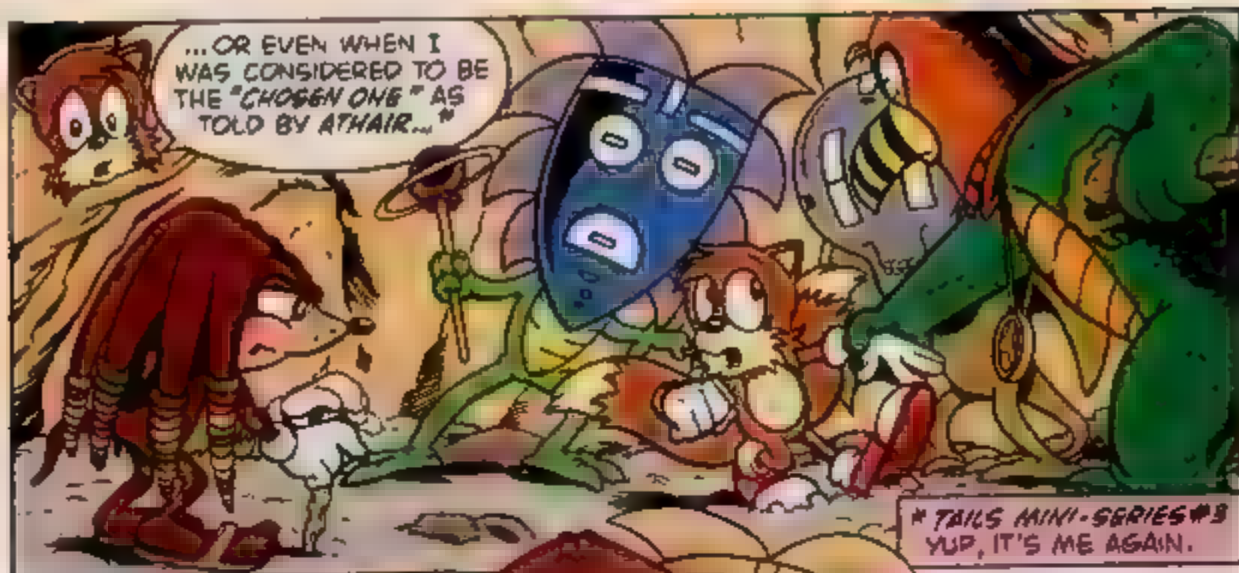


SONIC TRIPLE TROUBLE 1-Fred

...OR WHEN SONIC CAUGHT HIS BILLIONTH POWER RING...*



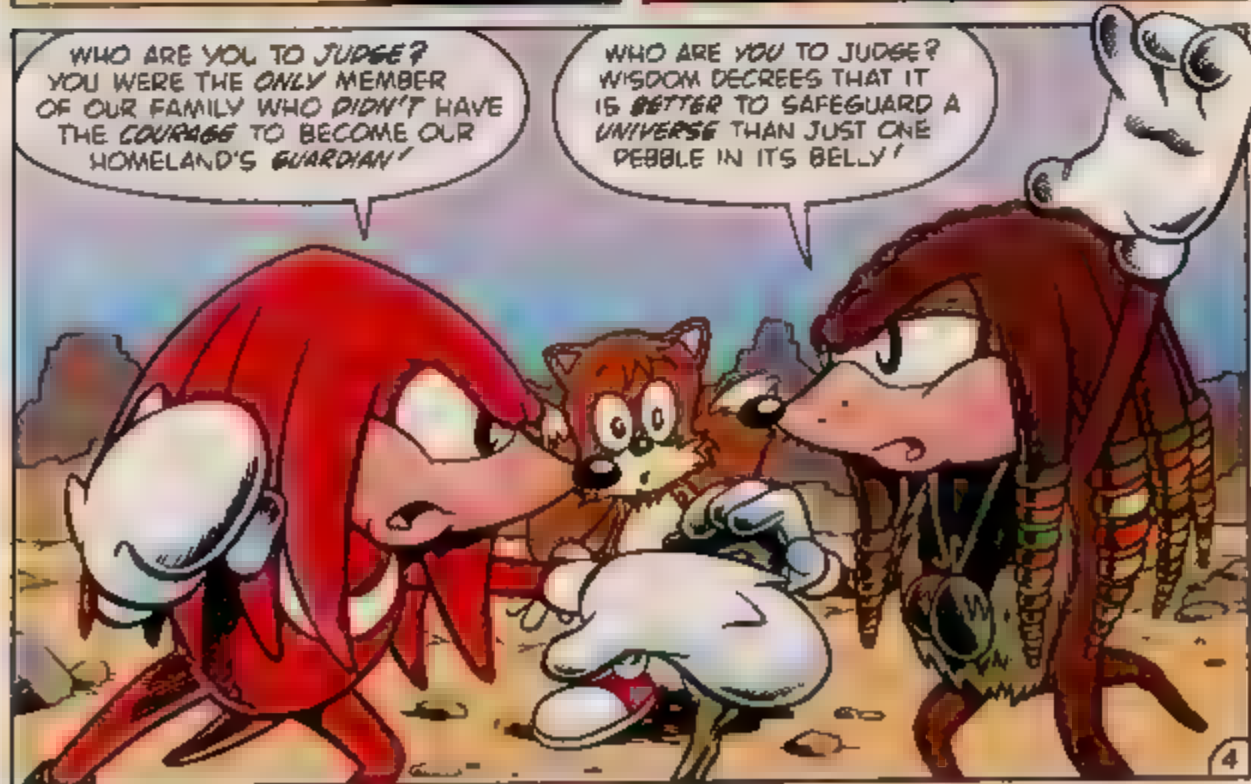
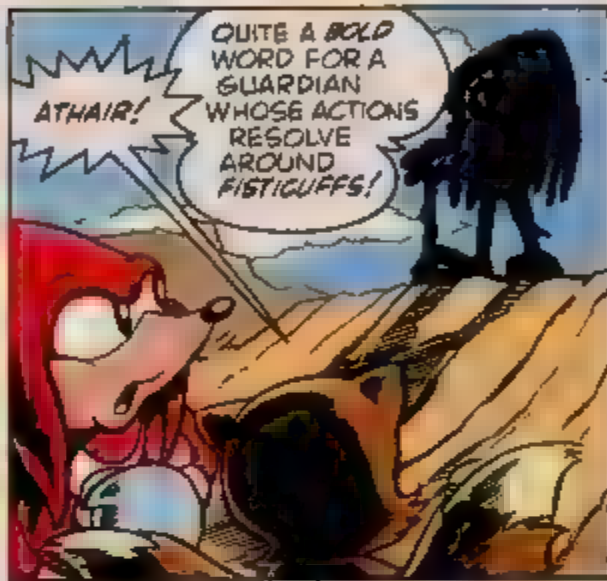
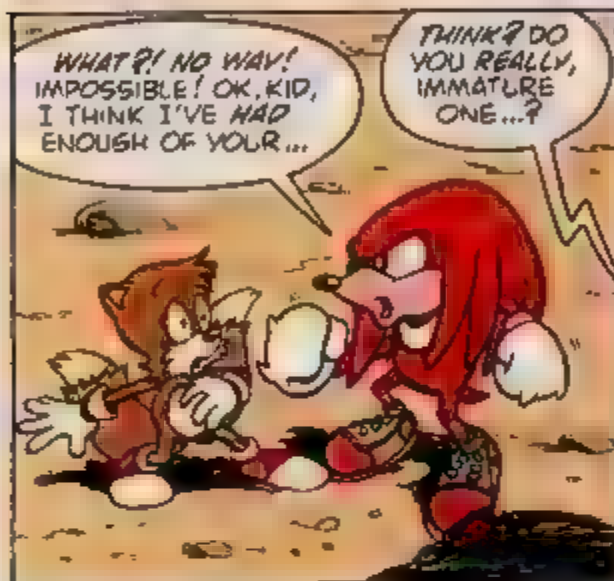
*SONIC #35 - The Fred Man Again 2

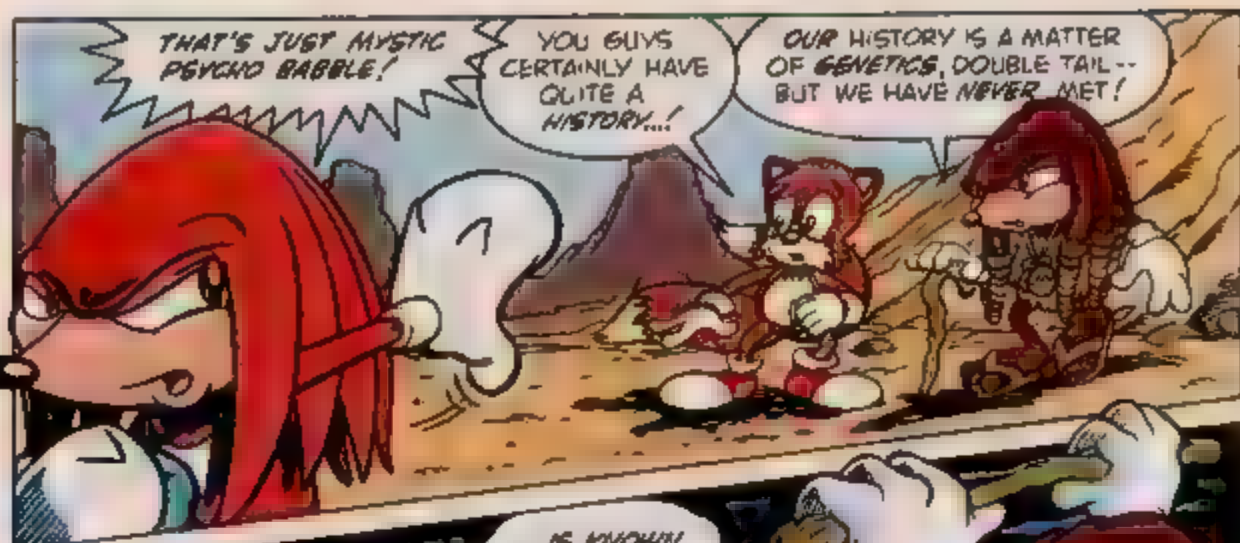


..AND SEVERAL HOURS LATER...

OH, NO, KID,
YOU LED US IN
CIRCLES!

BIG DEAL! I STILL SAY
WE'LL FIND ATHAIR HERE!
AFTER ALL, THIS CRATER IS
THE FORMER SITE OF THE
FLOATING ISLAND...





THAT'S JUST MYSTIC
PSYCHO BABBLE!

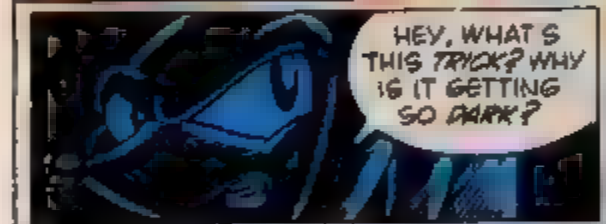
YOU GUYS
CERTAINLY HAVE
QUITE A
HISTORY...

OUR HISTORY IS A MATTER
OF GENETICS, DOUBLE TAIL--
BUT WE HAVE NEVER MET!

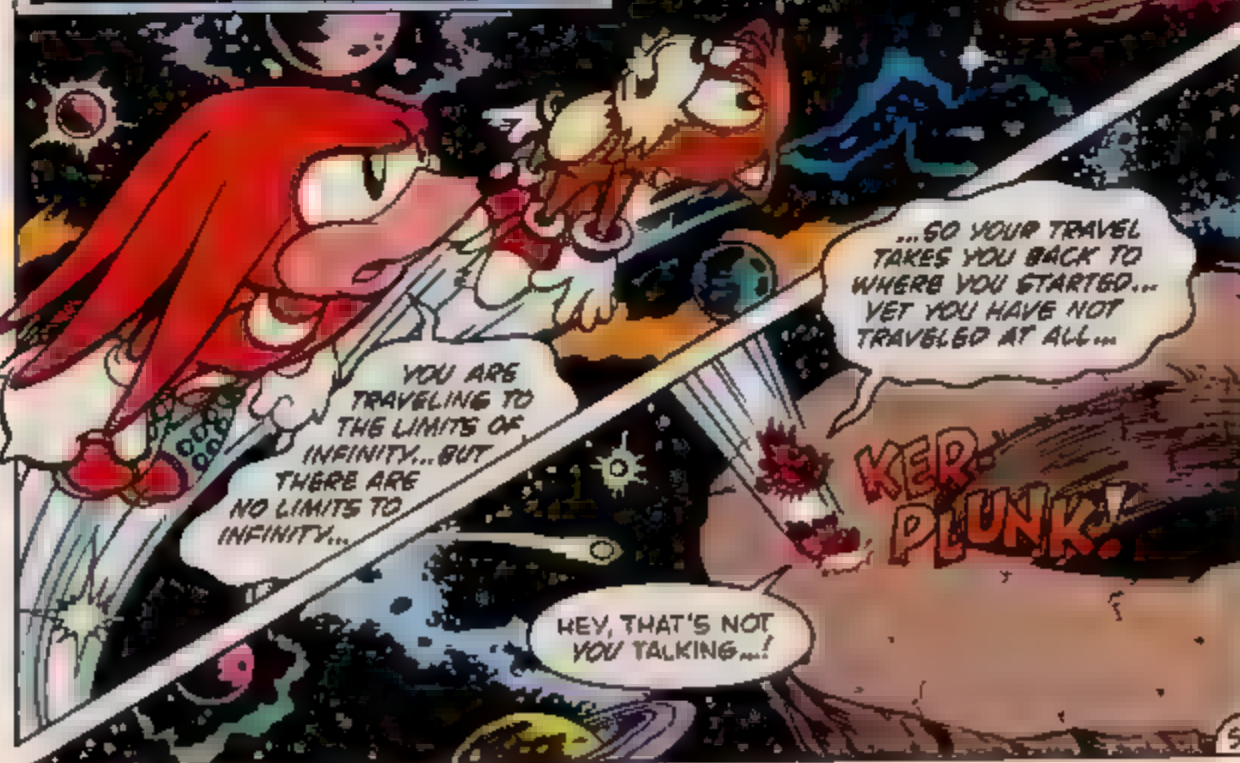


LOOK, THE REASON
WE CAME HERE...HUN?

...IS KNOWN
ONLY TOO
WELL...



HEY, WHAT'S
THIS TRICK? WHY
IS IT GETTING
SO DARK?



WHAT'S
HAPPENING
TO US?!

...SO YOUR TRAVEL
TAKES YOU BACK TO
WHERE YOU STARTED...
YET YOU HAVE NOT
TRAVELED AT ALL...

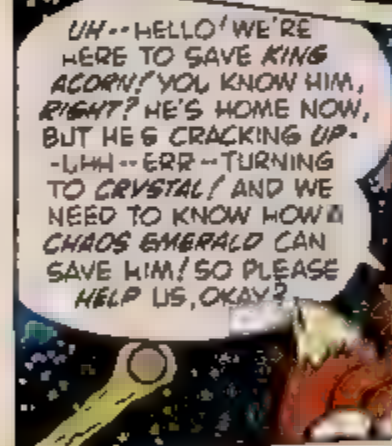
YOU ARE
TRAVELING TO
THE LIMITS OF
INFINITY... BUT
THERE ARE
NO LIMITS TO
INFINITY...

KER-
PLUNK!

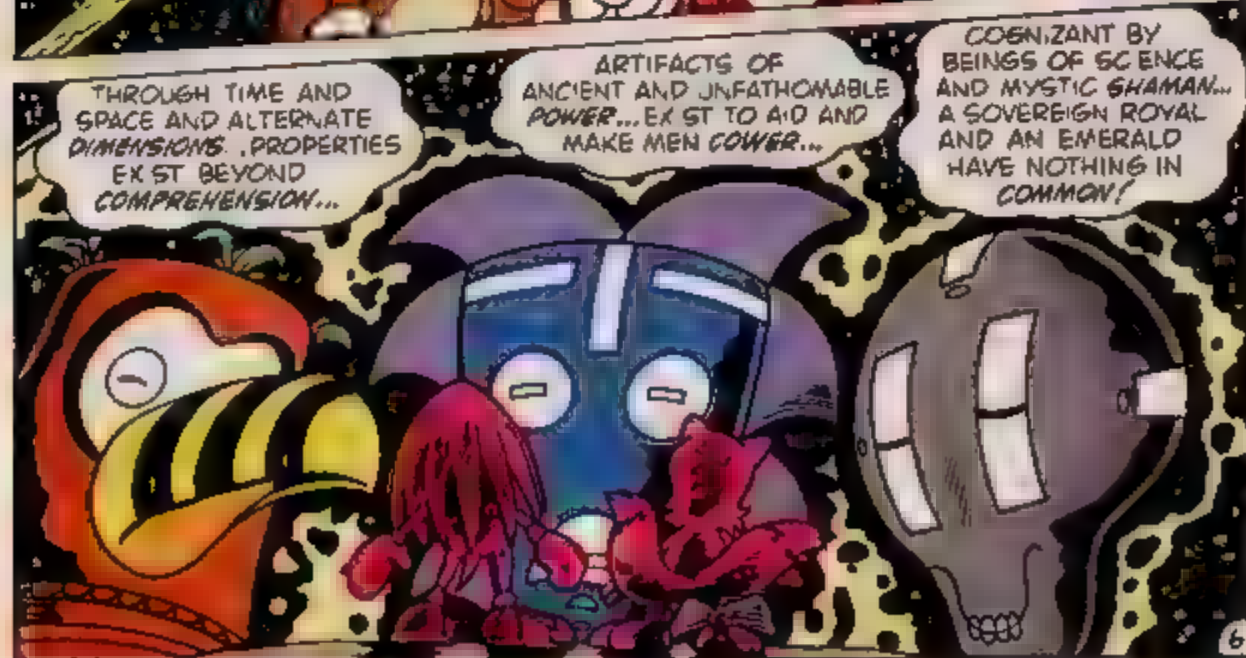
HEY, THAT'S NOT
YOU TALKING...!



...THE
ANCIENT
WALKERS!!!



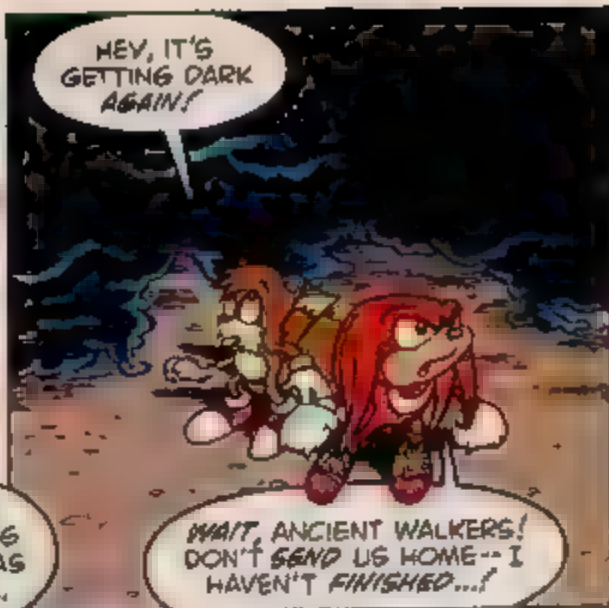
JEEZ! AND I
ACCUSED ATHAIR
OF PSYCHO
BABBLE...!!





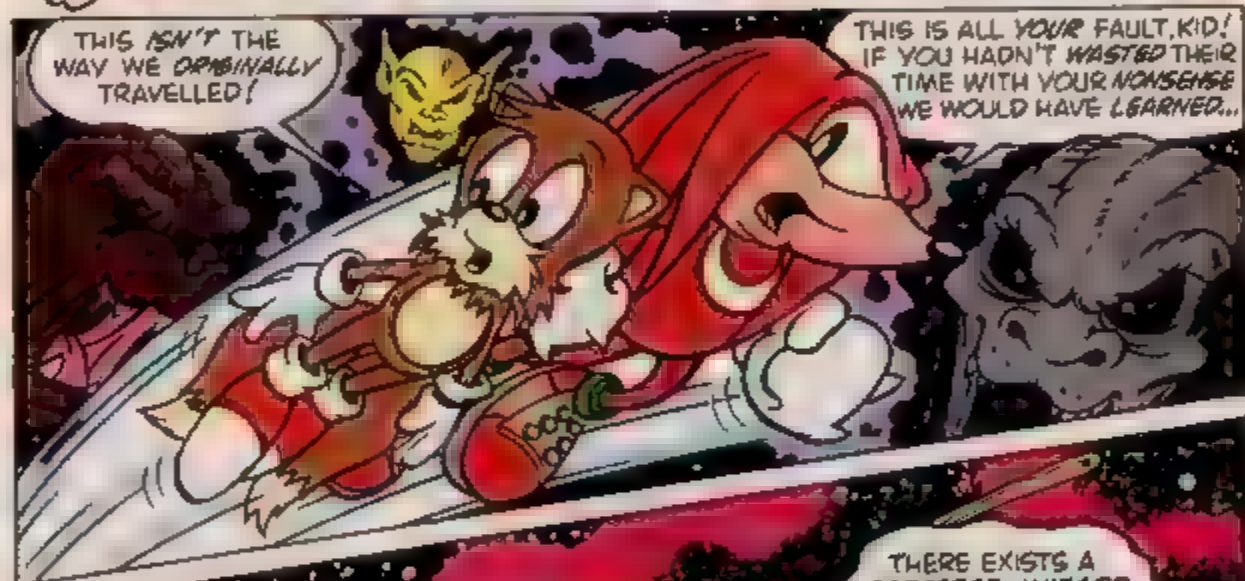
YOU MEAN A
CHAOS EMERALD
WOON'T HELP HIM?
WHY?

UHH--WE REALLY CAME
HERE FOR HELP LOCATING
THE KING'S SWORD! IT HAS
A MAGICAL LINK TO HIS...



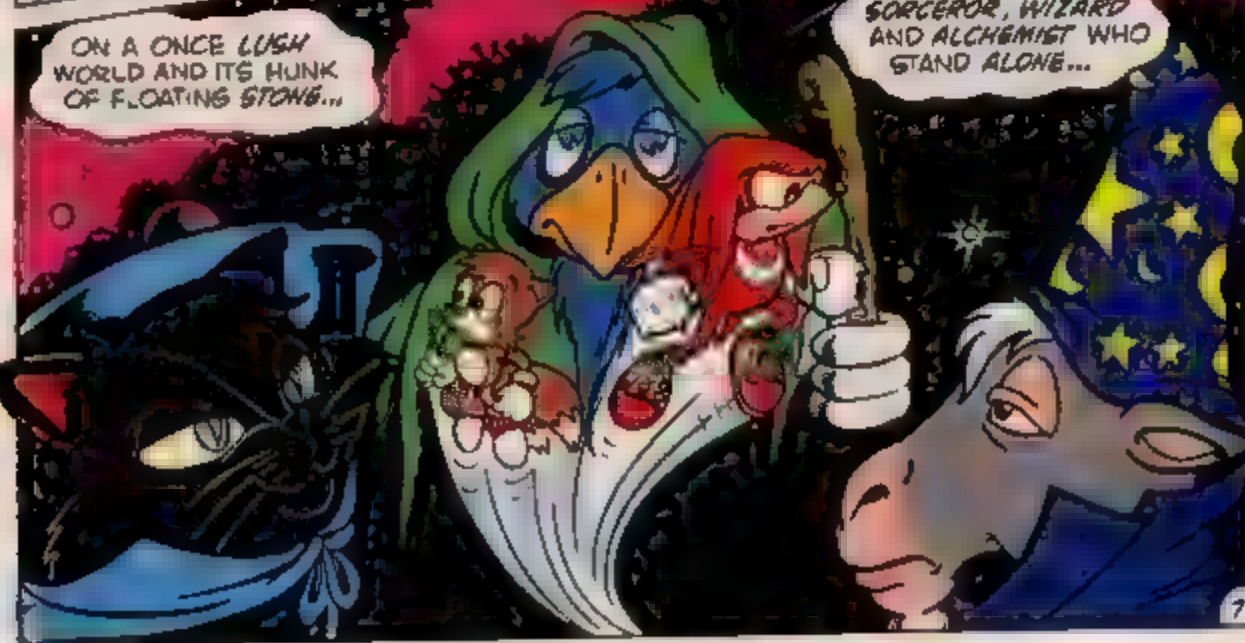
HEY, IT'S
GETTING DARK
AGAIN!

WAIT, ANCIENT WALKERS!
DON'T SEND US HOME-- I
HAVEN'T FINISHED...!



THIS ISN'T THE
WAY WE ORIGINALLY
TRAVELLED!

THIS IS ALL YOUR FAULT, KID!
IF YOU HADN'T WASTED THEIR
TIME WITH YOUR NONSENSE
WE WOULD HAVE LEARNED...



ON A ONCE LUSH
WORLD AND ITS HUNK
OF FLOATING STONE...

THERE EXISTS A
SORCEROR, WIZARD
AND ALCHEMIST WHO
STAND ALONE...



SONIC-GRAMS

THIS JUST IN!

We've packed this issue with sooooo much (between the additional two-page "Find Your Name In Print" feature and the Fan Art page), we had to drop the letters page down to one. Don't worry, this is only temporary. By the by, more names and art will be printed in the SONICQUEST mini-series and the upcoming Sonic special, "SONIC LIVE #1," on sale November 1996! Story, art and FIRST-EVER PHOTO COVER by regular Sonic scribe Ken Penders! Also included are "The Substitute Freedom Fighters" by Rich Koslowski and Art Mawhinney & "KnucklesQuest 2" by Kent Taylor and Patrick "SPAZ" Spaziantel! More next month!

Justin Freddy Gabrie
Editor

Well B.J., it goes a little something like this: Zones are not other alternate realities. That's why the Cosmic Interstate, which is used to travel between other realities, doesn't work for the Zone of Silence.

Dear Sonic-Grams,

My name is Amanda Johnson and I am 12 years old. I am in sixth grade and have all your comics starting with SONIC #16. I have issue #25 and can't stand to read it because of the way Metal Sonic was defeated. I like him and think he's kind of cute. I have a few questions for you: 1) What happened to the Sonic The Hedgehog cartoon show on Saturdays? 2) How did all the Freedom Fighters meet each other? 3) In what issue did Metal Sonic first appear in? One more thing... say "Hi!" to Metal Sonic for me.

Amanda Johnson
Rosell, IL

P.S.: For those of you who were wondering about the "Robotnik Rules" pin-up in MECHA MADNESS #1, it was painted by none other than Rich Koslowski. Take a bow, Rich.

Dear Sonic Grams,

Lately you've been asking your readers to write in saying whether we'd like to read stories about things like, for instance, Knuckles' and Sally's shared childhood. Let me say... YES! I'd also love to see things like: Downunda stories, Rotor solos, Bunnie solos, and the Misadventures of Antoine De Coollete. They'd all be wonderful.

I'd also like to see a completely separate comic book spinoff; starring Knuckles, the Chaotix and their conflicts on the Floating Island.

I also have a question. Why do the Freedom Fighters use a dimensional portal to try to reach the Zone of Silence? Why not use the Cosmic Interstate? You can get anywhere from there.

B.J. Kvito
Worthington, Ohio

Hey Amanda, what's up? To answer your questions: 1) My cartoon is now on The USA network 6 days a week. 2) We Freedom Fighters, at least the core group, met as kids. Others joined up over the years. 3) Though called Mecha Sonic at the time (before I got robotized), Metal Sonic first appeared in SONIC #25 and again in KNUCKLES CHAOTIX SPECIAL #1. Doctor Robotnik's first robotic version of me was called Pseudo-Sonic that first appeared in SONIC #9. "Bots All Folks!"



SEND LETTERS TO:
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THE "FIND YOUR NAME IN PRINT PAGE"



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**Thanks
guys and
galst! Keep
writing in!**